

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** - Today, **Rep. Brad Miller (NC-13)** voted to make our nation safer by implementing the unfulfilled recommendations of the bipartisan 9/11 Commission on improving homeland security, preventing terrorists from acquiring Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), and developing strategies for preventing the spread of Islamic terrorism.

Five and one-half years after the September 11th attacks, the bill passed overwhelmingly in the House this evening.

"When first responders can't even talk to each other during a crisis, our ability to respond during a terrorist attack is seriously flawed," said **Rep. Miller**. "The Commission issued one of many 'F' grades to the Administration and Congress on communications interoperability for first responders and I consider that a call to action."

Today's bill includes a number of long-overdue steps (first recommended in December 2005) to substantially improve homeland security, including:

- Creating a stand-alone grant program to provide first responders with the type of equipment that allows them to communicate with one another during emergencies;
- Phasing in a requirement of 100% inspection of the cargo carried on passenger aircraft over the next three years (most of this cargo is still not inspected);
- Quickly accelerating the installation of explosive detection systems for checked baggage at the nation's airports;
- Improving explosive detection systems at passenger checkpoints at the nation's airports; and
- Phasing in a requirement of 100% scanning of U.S.-bound shipping containers over the next five years.

The bill also includes provisions to better prevent terrorists from acquiring WMD, such as:

- Strengthening the Cooperative Threat Reduction ("Nunn-Lugar") program that focuses on securing loose nuclear materials in the former Soviet Union;
- Providing increased tools for the Proliferation Security Initiative, through which the U.S. and participating countries interdict WMD; and
- Establishing a U.S. Coordinator for the Prevention of WMD Proliferation and Terrorism at

the White House, who would serve as a presidential advisor on proliferation issues.

Finally, the bill also includes provisions to reduce the appeal of extremism, including:

- Providing for the establishment of a Middle East Foundation, to promote economic opportunities, education reform, human rights and democratic processes in the countries of the Middle East; and
- Promoting quality educational opportunities for youth in Arab and other predominantly Muslim countries, including expanding U.S. scholarship and exchange programs.